



# **STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**



ARNOLD  
SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

For Meeting Date: January 14, 2010

**Agenda Item No. 10: Report on the Mountain Pass Mine (CA Mine ID #91-36-0002), Molycorp Minerals, LLC. (Operator), Scott Honan (Agent), San Bernardino County. [Information]**

**INTRODUCTION:** Rare Earth Elements (REE) are a collection of seventeen chemical elements in the periodic table, namely scandium, yttrium, and the fifteen lanthanoids. REE have been mined in North America since 1885, and since the 1960s, most North American REE have been derived from a carbonatite deposit located in Mountain Pass, southeastern California. Between 1965 and 1995, most of the world's REE came from this deposit. REE are used in the production of light bulbs, glass and ceramics, rechargeable batteries, computers, false teeth, lasers, and stealth bomber, among other uses. Sales declined substantially after 1998, due to competition from China and environmental constraints. Extraction of select REE resumed in 2007.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** The information report being provided by the Molycorp Minerals, LLC, is for the SMGB's general information. The Executive Officer makes no recommendations at this time.

Respectfully submitted:

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Stephen M. Testa  
Executive Officer

### **EXHIBITS**

- A     **The Mountain Pass Rare-Earth Carbonatite and Associated Ultrapotassic Rocks, California: Stephen B. Castor, *The Canadian Mineralogist*, Vol 46, pp. 779-806, 2008.**
- B     **Rare Earth Deposits of North American: *Resource Geology*, Vol. 58, No. 4, pp. 337-347.**



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